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MARKET BASKETS FROM FOOD STORES
INDICATE FAMILIES' NUTRITION STANDING



Sir William Beveridge Report Reveals That The Problem Of Wart Canada Must Be Overcome

On the Four Freedoms mentioned in the Atlantic Charter, "Freedom from Want" seems the most idealistic to implement. The Beveridge report, however, reveals that the problem of Want is no chivalric chimera, but a grim reality, by planned attack as de-facto and de-facto as the outlines of a military campaign. Prepared under Cabinet direction, the report took 18 months to complete. Briefly, it is a plan for universal social security—a state-aided insurance program embracing all members of society, "from the cradle to the grave."

Under this scheme, Britain's public welfare system would be transformed into a single compulsory system. The Government would also guarantee the function of private insurance companies.

National income would be redistributed along new lines. "The abolition of want," Sir William Beveridge declares, "requires better distribution of wealth." Provisions are made for the spread of workers' earnings to cover periods of special distress and strain of family responsibility, as well as periods of idleness and unemployment.

Concerning the rolls involved, the report declares: "Unemployment and disability are already being met for money. It is no addition to the burden on the community to provide for them conclusively."

Points of the program include:

1. Social insurance covering unemployment, health, accidents, marriage, childbirth, allowances for children, and retirement for the aged.
2. Universal coverage, joint contributions by employers, workers, and the Government.
3. Distribution through the benefit system of approximately 10-12 per cent. of the national income.
4. Payment of benefits on an actuarial basis, rather than on a flat fee or through a means test. This means there will be no examination regarding savings, nor reference to relatives who might be able to support or maintain the insured.

5. A comprehensive system of free medical, dental, hospital, nursing, and convalescent services.

6. Virtual abolition of the present privately operated industrial insurance policy—small insurance policies paid on a weekly premium basis to cover the employee.

It is from the private insurance companies that the greatest protest is expected to arise. The report found that in 50 years to 1937 reduction of management expenses had amounted to 40 per cent. of the total of premiums. This was termed an "excessive" expense. Eight companies control 90 per cent. of the business. The 1938 premium income was £1,000,000,000, with £200,000,000 of every 20 cents collected committed in administrative expenses. According to records from 1927-1940, in 1939 103,000,000 policies were in force in Britain, or more than 100 million in France, more than 100 million in the U.S.A., more than 100 million in Germany, and more than 100 million in the U.S.S.R.

Of the redistributed national income will be drawn from wages of the workers through a "national insurance" through the channel of the Government, which would be returned in the form of grants and allowances.

Under the present system £1,648,000,000, compared with the £1,000,000,000 spent on the national insurance system. Instead of paying \$202,000,000 as at present, the Government would have to pay \$244,000,000. At the present time, the working class alone contribute £270,000,000 to the national insurance. The Beveridge plan, however, persons of all ages, men, women, and child in the land, would contribute a considerably larger sum.

Total cost for the more comprehensive social service would be \$2,788,000,000, compared with today's cost of \$1,328,000,000. However, the Government is already spending \$1,000,000,000 on the same service, remains the same, at \$800,000,000.

Presently, the Government contributes toward the national insurance cost of \$1,000,000,000. In the Beveridge plan, the Government would contribute 50 per cent. greater than the present sum involved in insurance expenses, or about \$1,200,000,000. The plan would be met by a 10 per cent. increase in the national income. Assuming that the national income in 1940, during the same year, the plan would cost and distribute 7 per cent. of the yearly national income—or \$1,728,000,000.

Where an unemployed man with two children today receives 30 shillings a week for 26 weeks, after which his insurance stops under present unemployment insurance plans, the same man would receive 56 shillings weekly, with no time limitation, and no cross-examination.

A special "funeral grant" is urged to cover burial expenses, which are today insured "at excessive expense." The plan would be met by a 10 per cent. increase in the national income. The report is that which deals with the family and the falling birth rate, and the production guaranteed married women. Increased allowances for maternity and child payments may help to turn the falling tide of Britain's birth rate. Where past years have failed to attract married and married women insurance, the Beveridge plan would grant them equal provision.

Instead of the present complicated plan of workers' donations to health, pensions, unemployment and unemployment funds, one weekly contribution would serve all. Contributions would range from 30 cents for unemployed 16-year-olds to 94 cents for employed workers over 50.

The Coal Situation

Decline In Production Chief Due To Labor Shortage

To arrest the decline in production of Canadian coal which began in the middle of 1942, there has been established a new authority known as the Emergency Coal Production Board with wide special powers to deal with present labor shortage and a possibility later on of a shortage in 1943. J. M. Stewart, coal administrator in charge; Charles Payne, secretary of Local 2008, United Mine Workers of America; and Graham F. Towner, governor of the Bank of Canada, are members of the Board.

Decline in production was chiefly due to the loss of labor, some to other industries, some to the armed forces, leaving older and less active workers who per man output is lower, to carry on.

Members of the board are such that they can open new coal mines or re-open closed ones; close small inefficient mines wherever labor may be transferred to more efficient operations; suspend for the duration any rules or regulations respecting employment in coal mines which are found to be a detriment to maximum production; and to provide financial assistance to mines which find themselves financially unable to continue the work.

An important point, too, is the need to develop plans and the new leadership and direction along the lines of conservation, both to the coal mines and to the coal industry for the heating of business or commercial premises.

Decline in production, the decline in coal production in Canada will leave us with an estimated shortage of about eight million tons of coal for 1943. We can hardly hope the United States will be able to supply the shortage of coal for next year, for with industry greatly expanded, they have their own coal troubles. Increased consumption of coal next year is forecast on the basis of war industry requirements that are still expanding, with the railways handling even more freight than in 1942, and with the demand for coal for ships being continuing in an ever-increasing supply.

On point which may not have been covered, but is mentioned in the official announcement, was the necessity for improving labor relations in the coal mines in order to expand output. Inter-industry friction has been the cause of the strike for years. Monetary Times.

An Historic Coach

Private Car Of Sir William Van Hous is Still Doing Duty

Special railroad coach "Bathurst" built in 1902 was used as the private car of the first chairman and second president of the Canadian National Railway, Sir William Van Hous, K.C.M.G., in despite its age, still in service on temporary basis.

Unromantically designated "Bathurst" car No. 28, the former "Bathurst" is now doing duty as the travelling headquarters of C. J. McCreary, minister of agriculture, and the Trenton Division, out of Toronto.

Although recently stripped of the glances it has been stripped of the ornamental equipment popular in the '80s, the "Bathurst" still wears its proudly. It was shown this car that Sir William Van Hous, K.C.M.G., in despite its age, still in service on temporary basis.

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Italy, Target For R.A.F.

Steadily inflicting up the core of Italy's heart, the R.A.F. has been pounding at important Italian cities. Above is an air view of Messina on the island of Sicily which has been a target for British bombs for some time.

Shown above, also, is the strategic harbor of Genoa, Italy's Mediterranean port and naval base. Turin, Italy's industrial centre, is pictured also with one of the great automobile factories in prominence. Both have come in for an extensive bombing recently.

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Fine Optical Glass Is Now Manufactured in Canada On Large Scale For War Purposes

UNtil about a year ago, says the Financial Post, Canada had never manufactured commercially one pound of optical glass, not even the kind used for lenses of spectacles, which is actually second grade compared with the brand used in making binoculars and other delicate instruments of war. Modern war requires countless mechanical eyes—periscopes for the submarines and the tank, telescopic sights and range finders for the rifle and the big gun, flat glasses and periscopes for the soldier. Thus the demand for optical goods soared high.

Canada was faced with a twin problem. We needed far more optical goods than ever before and we were unable to supply them. The answer was to turn to the United States for the manufacture of this equipment. Great Britain, one of them, was very busy filling its own needs and the expanding armament output of the United States, the other source, gave that country's optical plants all the work they could handle.

To get around this bottleneck of supply Canada decided to manufacture its own optical goods. Today this is being done on a large scale by several hundred men who are working in a big modern factory on the outskirts of Toronto.

The factory for this development was built in the laboratories of the National Research Council in Ottawa.

The optical glass is made of silicate sand, soda ash, and potash, mixed with chemicals and melted by torches of molten glass. The finished product is then cut into sheets. The slightest bit of foreign matter in the glass will ruin it. In fact, for instance, will turn the glass green. Arsenic is one of the elements that will do this. The glass is then cut into sheets, and in a warehouse at the plant there is enough reserve to supply half the country. The arsenic acts as a cleaning agent, clearing the glass of all bubbles and in the melting.

While the glass is being melted, it is constantly stirred. Metal stirring rods made of pure iron are used for this, because part of the metal in the stirring rods is used. By the ironing process, water is kept circulating with the glass, and continuously to keep them hot.

Glass for the finest lenses is made of pure silica, and is made in a furnace. The glass is then cut into sheets, and in a warehouse at the plant there is enough reserve to supply half the country. The arsenic acts as a cleaning agent, clearing the glass of all bubbles and in the melting.

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